Political Science, M.A. in Public Policy

Chairperson
Jeffrey Segal, Ward Melville Social and Behavioral Sciences Building S-711 (631) 632-7667

Graduate Program Director
Peter Salins, Ward Melville Social and Behavioral Sciences Building S743 631-632-7672

Graduate Coordinator
Carri Horner, Ward Melville Social and Behavioral Sciences Building S-703 (631) 632-7667

Degrees Awarded
M.A. in Public Policy

Website
http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/polisci/ma_public_policy.html

Political Economy and Public Policy

Stony Brook University’s Master of Arts in Public Policy prepares students to take a wide variety of rewarding careers in the growing field of public policy.

Graduates of the MAPP program will gain the skills and experience to achieve success working in government or in organizations affected by government – local, state, national and international. They may find employment as policy analysts and executives in government agencies, or in private, non-profit and advocacy organizations. They may enter the front lines of politics as elected officials or members of their staffs. They may influence public policy as journalists or leaders of civic organizations. Those with an international background or an interest in global affairs may enter careers abroad or in international affairs. For those looking to continue their professional or graduate studies, the MAPP provides a rigorous academic platform.

For students entering the public policy field for the first time, the program offers training and credentials to launch their careers; for those already working in the field, the program will enhance their skills and credentials. Graduates of the program will be joining a growing roster of alumni successfully working in public, private and non-profit organizations. With our flourishing alumni organization, MAPP alumni will be available to assist graduates with employment and career counseling.

Course of Study

The MPP program combines rigorous instruction in key components of public policy development with detailed analysis of specific public policy issues and fieldwork. After introducing students to the foundations of government action in philosophy, law and economics, the MAPP curriculum develops skills in political, economic, quantitative and organizational analysis, with a practical focus on solutions to complex public policy problems. With this foundation, students take one or more courses in a specialized concentration and a related internship or research assignment. The entire program of 30 credit hours can be completed in one calendar year by full-time students, and within two years by those attending part-time.

Joint Degree Programs

Combined MAPP/MPH

With additional coursework, students interested in pursuing a career in the increasingly important field of health policy may elect to earn a Master of Public Health degree along with their MAPP in a combined and accelerated 54-credit MAPP/MPH sequence.

Combined MAPP/MBA

With additional coursework, students interested in applying public policy concepts to the world of business may elect to earn a Master of Business Administration degree along with their MAPP in a combined and accelerated 69-credit-hour MAPP/MBA sequence.

Accelerated BA/MAPP Program

Stony Brook University undergraduates currently majoring in Political Science with a GPA of 3.0 or better are eligible to enroll in the five-year Accelerated BA/MAPP program, by taking up to six graduate credits while they fulfill the upper-level undergraduate elective requirements and completing the remaining graduate requirements in the fifth year of full-time study.

The Students

Students in the MPP program come from numerous academic backgrounds including undergraduate majors in the arts and sciences, health professions, engineering and architecture. Many students come to the program with extensive prior experience in government or the professions.

The curriculum structure and scheduling of courses is designed to accommodate candidates with a broad range of interests and experiences, and to permit those that are working to earn their degree while continuing to pursue their current career.
The Faculty

The MPP program is housed in one of the country’s leading departments of political science, ranked among the top five in research and publications, with a faculty comprised of nationally recognized scholars and highly experienced public policy professionals. In addition, the program draws on faculty resources from other prestigious Stony Brook programs in health policy, business administration, economics, engineering, education and journalism.

Admission requirements of the Department of Political Science

Admission Requirements

Applicants must have an earned baccalaureate degree with a grade point average of 3.0 or better (on a 4.0 scale), have taken the Graduate Record Examination or equivalent, and submit three letters of recommendation from instructors, academic advisors or employers. Consideration will also be given to relevant work experience.

Tuition and Fees

Tuition and fees, set by the State University of New York, are considerably below those of comparable programs in Long Island and the greater New York metropolitan region. For current tuition and fee schedules, please consult the Stony Brook University website.

Facilities of the Department of Political Science

The department has extensive research facilities equal to any in the country, most located on the same floor with faculty and student offices. Students routinely use the conveniently located computer facilities for writing and analysis as part of their professional training. The Social and Behavioral Sciences Data Laboratory on our floor provides access to state-of-the-art personal computers tied to a local computer network and providing connections to all computers on campus. The Stony Brook Instructional Networked Computer site one floor below the department provides additional personal computers for classroom and research work. In addition, our data lab maintains a library of reference materials, holds classes on specific software packages, provides access to the extensive data archives available through the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Resources, and employs computer consultants to help with student research projects. All of the resources of the data lab are available to graduate students.

The laboratories for political psychology research are designed for the experimental study of political behavior. One set of labs contains computerized equipment to monitor, control, record, and analyze multiple responses from subjects. Much of the recent work focuses on information processing and decision-making—how citizens interpret, use, and recall political information. The other set of labs contains a large survey and experiment room equipped with computerized data collection stations. Students may also take advantage of our modern, fully equipped Survey Center for public opinion studies using computer-assisted, telephone interviewing.

Degree Requirements M.A. in Public Policy

Program Tracks

M.A. Track

This track requires the completion of 30 credits of graduate coursework, typically distributed as follows:

Fall:

POL 501 Introductions to Statistics for Public Policy (3 credits)
POL 535 Public Policy Analysis & Evaluation (3 credits)
POL 509 Public Budgeting and Finance (3 credits)
POL 537 Administrative Law for Public Analysts (3 credits)

or

500-level elective approved by Graduate Director (only one elective permitted outside of Department of Political Science)

Spring:

POL 502 Intermediate Statistics for Public Policy (3 credits)
POL 536 Public Management & Organizational Behavior (3 credits)
POL 510 Personnel Systems for Public Policy (3 credits)
POL 534 Intergovernmental Relations and Policy Delivery (3 credits)

or

500-level elective (as approved)
Summer:

POL 599 Internship in Public Policy (6 credits)

or

POL 597 Master’s Paper (6 credits)

Full-time students without past significant full-time public policy work experience are required to take the Internship in Public Policy. Part-time students can fulfill their capstone requirement by the Internship (POL 599), the M.A. Paper (POL 597), or two additional elective courses approved by the graduate program director.

B.A./M.A. Track

Stony Brook University students currently enrolled with a major in Political Science are eligible for the five year B.A./M.A. program, in which up to six graduate credits are earned during the senior year, while also fulfilling the B.A. requirements. Consult the Undergraduate Bulletin for B.A. requirements. Upon admission to the program, the following two courses (or others approved by the graduate program director) are taken in the senior year and also satisfy the upper level undergraduate elective requirement:

POL 535 Public Policy Analysis and Evaluation (3 credits)

POL 536 Public Management & Organizational Behavior (3 credits)

The student then completes the remaining graduate requirements during the fifth year of full-time study.

Faculty of the Department of Political Science

Professors

Barabas, Jason, Ph.D., Northwestern University, 2000. Research Interests: American Politics; Public Policy; Public Opinion; Survey Research; Methodology.

Huddy, Leonie, Ph.D., University of California, Los Angeles, 1988. Research Interests: Political Attitudes; Groups and Politics; Socio-political Gerontology; Women and Politics; Survey Methodology.


Withers, Harold, Former Suffolk County Deputy Director of Planning and Commissioner of Consumer Affairs. Ph.D., Fordham University. Interests: Public policy; Federalism.

Leading Professors

Koppelman, Lee E., Emeritus, D.P.A., 1970, New York University: Comprehensive regional and urban planning; environmental policy; American federalism and intergovernmental relations; regional policy analysis; coastal zone planning.

Associate Professors

Lebo, Matthew, Ph.D., 1999, University of North Texas: Political parties; public opinion; elections; political methodology.

Adjunct Associate Professor

Kovesdy, Allen, MBA, Long Island University, 1972. Long Island Regional Planning Council; Former Director of Management and Research, Suffolk County Executive’s Office.


NOTE: The course descriptions for this program can be found in the corresponding program PDF or at COURSE SEARCH.